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10-17-01*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

PETER HASSE ET AL :

ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 09/806,990 :

FILED: 06 APRIL 2001 :

FOR: SPARK GAP ARRANGEMENT :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 10-18 as follows:

10. (New) Encapsulated spark gap arrangement for use in power supply systems, in particular low-voltage systems and optimized ability to extinguish system secondary currents as well as with an arcing chamber, within which arcing occurs between two electrodes in the spark gap, wherein downstream of the arcing chamber there is disposed an intermediate chamber a volume of which is substantially larger than a volume of the arcing chamber itself, and wherein there is further provided a pressure-resistant, preferably metallic flow channel to connect the arcing chamber to the intermediate chamber.